SHADOW STRIKES
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THE Shadow STRIKES!
ALOHA FROM PARADISE!
G. JONES - STORY
S. LEIALOHA - ART

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OR HUNTER?

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MY NAME'S HARRY VINCENT. AND THIS IS THE LAST STORY I'VE GOT TO TELL.
ALOHA
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YOU, CHIEF... FOR ONCE YOU'VE SENT US SOMEPLACE I WANT TO BE!
WHY, YOU LITTLE INGRATE! AFTER THOSE TWO LOVELY WEEKS HE GAVE YOU IN A MONGOLIAN CAVE?
LET ME REMIND YOU BOTH THAT WE ARE IN HAWAII ONLY FOR REST AND REFUELING... AND A SINGLE MINOR ERRAND.
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BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY WALTER GIBSON

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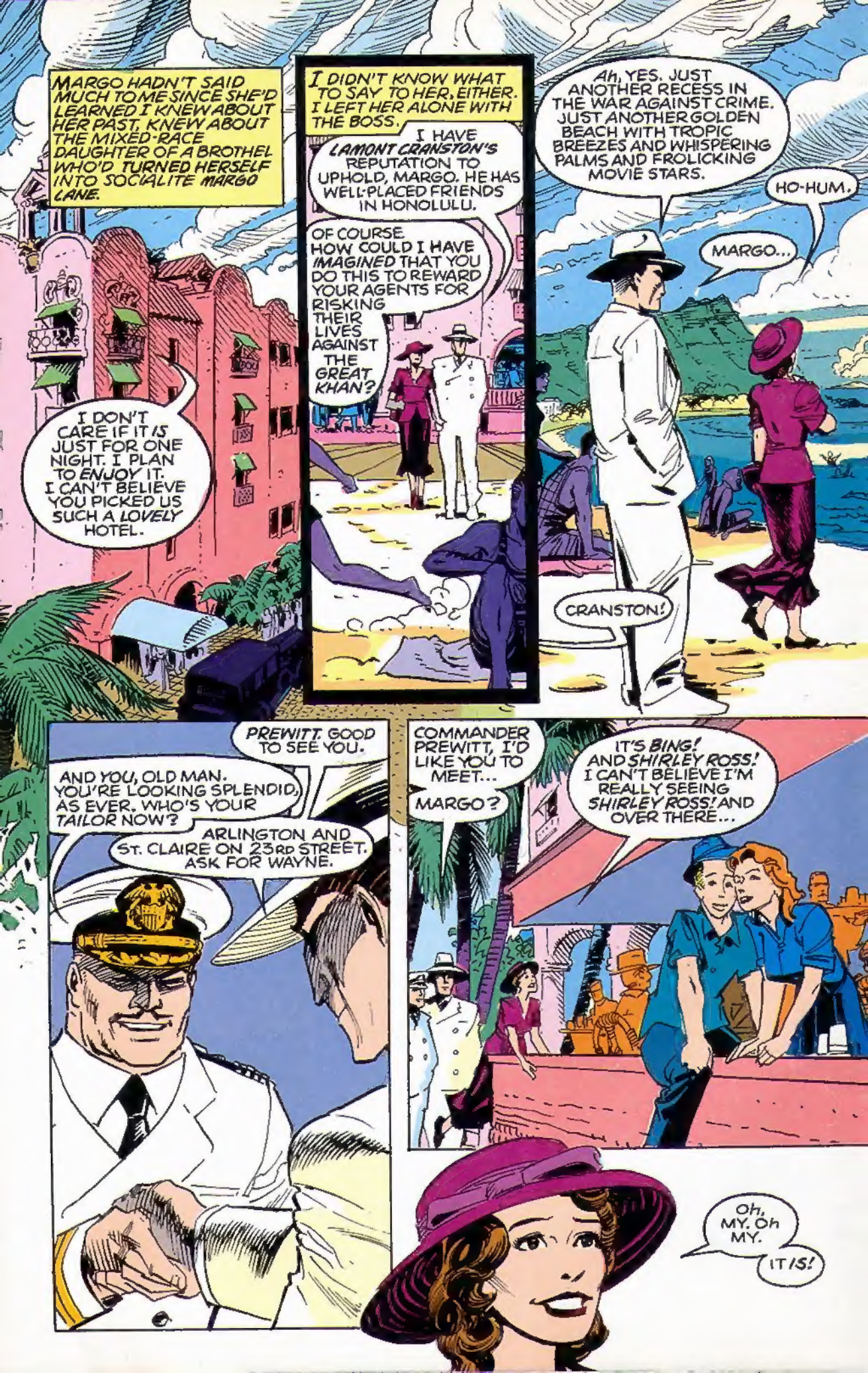
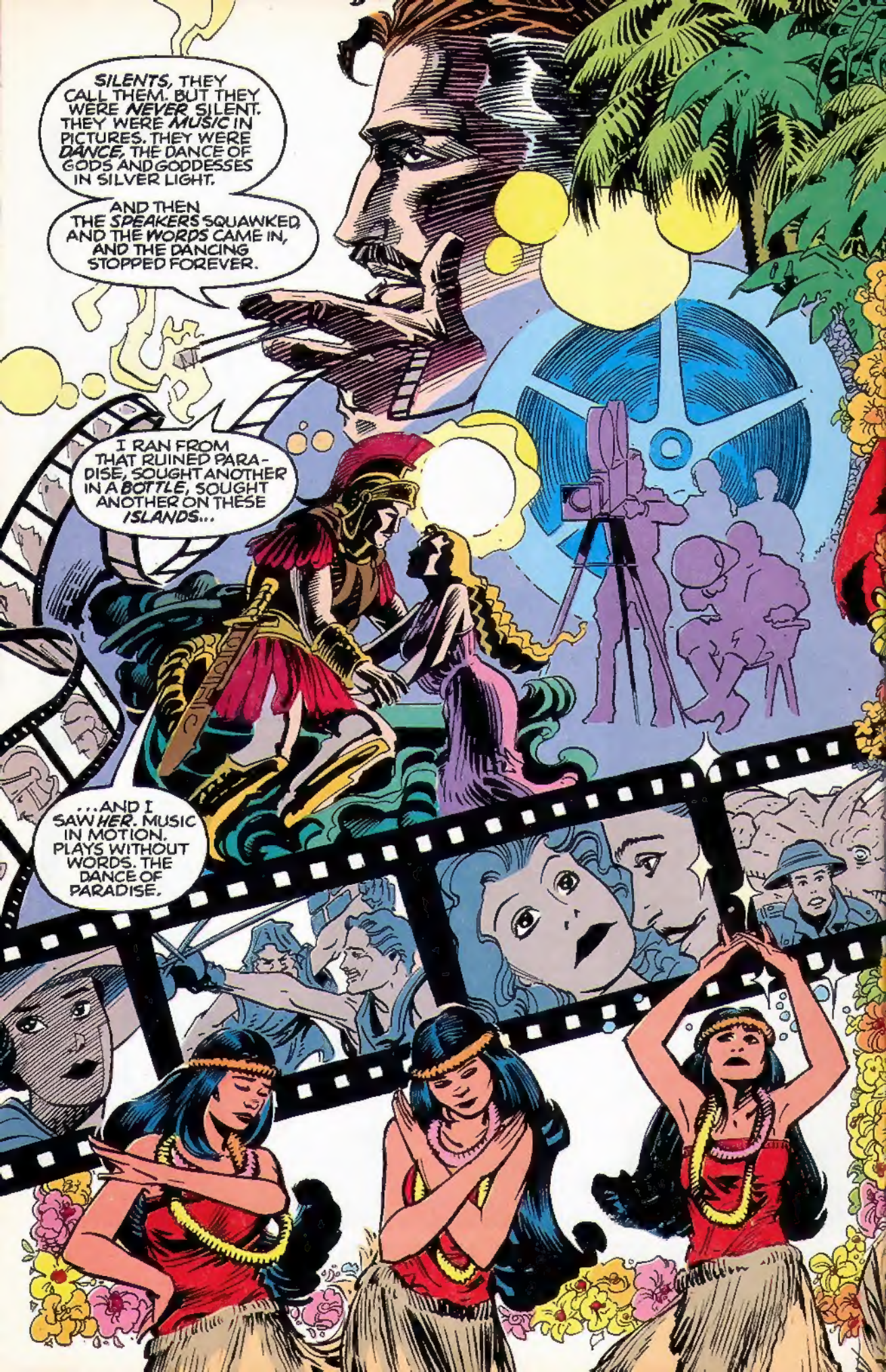

MARGO HADN'T SAID MUCH TO ME SINCE SHE'D LEARNED I KNEW ABOUT HER PAST, KNEW ABOUT THE MIXED-RACE DAUGHTER OF A BROTHEL WHO'D TURNED HERSELF INTO SOCIALITE MARGO LANE.
I DON'T CARE IF IT IS JUST FOR ONE NIGHT. I PLAN TO ENJOY IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PICKED US SUCH A LOVELY HOTEL.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER, EITHER. I LEFT HER ALONE WITH THE BOSS.
I HAVE LAMONT CRANSTON'S REPUTATION TO UPHOLD, MARGO. HE HAS WELL-PLACED FRIENDS IN HONOLULU.
OF COURSE. HOW COULD I HAVE IMAGINED THAT YOU DO THIS TO REWARD YOUR AGENTS FOR RISKING THEIR LIVES AGAINST THE GREAT KHAN?
Ah, YES. JUST ANOTHER RECESS IN THE WAR AGAINST CRIME. JUST ANOTHER GOLDEN BEACH WITH TROPIC BREEZES AND WHISPERING PALMS AND FROLICKING MOVIE STARS.
HO-HUM.
MARGO...
CRANSTON!
PREWITT. GOOD TO SEE YOU.
AND YOU, OLD MAN. YOU'RE LOOKING SPLENDID, AS EVER. WHO'S YOUR TAILOR NOW?
ARLINGTON AND ST. CLAIRE ON 23RD STREET. ASK FOR WAYNE.
COMMANDER PREWITT, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET...
MARGO?
IT'S BING! AND SHIRLEY ROSS! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M REALLY SEEING SHIRLEY ROSS! AND OVER THERE...
OH, MY. OH MY.
IT IS!

JOHN ROLAND!
MARGO, IF YOU PLEASE!
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I LOVED HIM WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER, WHEN THE SILENT FLICKERS WERE TEACHING ME ABOUT LIFE AND THE WORLD AND...
...oh, DEAR. JOHN ROLAND!
WE SHOULD INTRODUCE YOUR FRIEND TO ROLAND. THE OLD LUSH WOULD PROBABLY BE THRILLED THAT ANYONE STILL REMEMBERS HIM. HE'S BEEN HERE KILLING SCOTCH BOTTLES SINCE SOUND CONQUERED HOLLYW--
Uh-oh. WATCH FOR FIREWORKS...
"...THAT'S PRINCESS LILIHA. MEMBER OF THE HAWAIIAN ROYAL FAMILY, AND AN AUTHORITY ON HULA. SHE'LL BE PART OF TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT.
"SHE'S ALSO A PART OF ROLAND'S TROUBLE. THEY'VE BEEN SEEN TOGETHER FAIRLY OFTEN LATELY...
"...TOO OFTEN FOR THE COMFORT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. AND ITS LOYAL STOOGES."
TIME TO GO NOW.
NOW LISTEN, YOU...
NO, YOU LISTEN, HAOLE! THE PRINCESS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, YEAH?
PRINCE KAHO'OHULI SAY SHE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, AND YOU BE SMART TO LISTEN TO THAT GUY, YEAH!

THIS KAHOOHULI IS PART OF THE OLD SCHOOL--PRESERVE THE ROYALTY, SEPARATE THE RACES. QUITE A KILL-JOY REALLY.
POOR Mr. ROLAND. SO SAD...SO HOPELESS...
...SO ROMANTIC.
THESE ROYALISTS ARE TROUBLE FOR MORE THAN JUST DRUNKEN OLD LOVERS. HAWAII IS HARD ENOUGH TO ADMINISTER AS IT IS.
AND NO DOUBT THE SUGAR MAGNATES WANT IT ADMINISTERED VERY CAREFULLY.
SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT THE PLANTATION OWNERS, LAMONT--THESE ISLANDS ARE POTENTIAL CORNUCOPIAS, WHICH THE LOCALS NEVER PROPERLY EXPLOITED.
I'M SURE AMERICAN INDUSTRY WILL FIND A WAY TO EXPLOIT THEM...AND THE LOCALS.
NOW DON'T GET RADICAL ON ME IN YOUR OLD AGE, CRANSTON. AS A NAVY MAN, I CAN'T TAKE THESE ISLANDS LIGHTLY.
NOT WITH THE WAR IN ASIA. NOT WITH THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE HAWAII'S GOING TO HAVE.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STRATEGIC...
MARGO?

I TOLD MYSELF MARGO DIDN'T MATTER. TOLD MYSELF TO FIND OTHER DISTRACTIONS.
NOW THAT'S A SHIRT!
ALMOST WISH I WERE STILL IN SALES. I'VE GOT A HUNCH THESE THINGS'LL BE A CRAZE ON THE MAIN-LAND BEFORE TOO--
LEAVE ME ALONE!
I'VE SEEN THE LAST OF JOHN ROLAND! THAT IS ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. DOES BEING YOUR PRINCESS MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE?
YOU MADE AN "ARRANGEMENT" WITH HIM, YEAH? I HEARD YOU SAY IT-- ARRANGEMENT.
MAYBE YOU TELL THE PRINCE ABOUT THAT! MAYBE YOU TELL THE FAMILY!
THAT'S SOMETHING HAWAII'S GOOD AT. DISTRACTIONS.
THE FAMILY... THE FAMILY... I HOPE THE FAMILY IS PLEASED...
PARDON ME, I... COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
FOR ME?
NO. IT'S VERY LATE FOR ME. AND FOR HAWAII.
Ahhhhh-LOHA OE... ALOHA OE...
WELL, NOT THE IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR MEETING MY CHILDHOOD HEARTTHROB. BUT STILL...
Mr. ROLAND? I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BUT--YOU DO LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A SHOULDER TO CRY ON.
CRY ON? HOWZ'BOUT ONE TO HOLD ME UP? URP!
SIDDOWN, LI'L GIRL. LET OL' Mr. ROLAND TELL YOU A STORY. A STORY ABOUT PARADISE. PARADISE LOST.


SILENTS, THEY CALL THEM. BUT THEY WERE NEVER SILENT. THEY WERE MUSIC IN PICTURES. THEY WERE DANCE, THE DANCE OF GODS AND GODDESSES IN SILVER LIGHT.
AND THEN THE SPEAKERS SQUAWKED AND THE WORDS CAME IN, AND THE DANCING STOPPED FOREVER.
I RAN FROM THAT RUINED PARADISE, SOUGHT ANOTHER IN A BOTTLE, SOUGHT ANOTHER ON THESE ISLANDS...
...AND I SAW HER. MUSIC IN MOTION. PLAYS WITHOUT WORDS. THE DANCE OF PARADISE.

HULA IS ALL I HAVE OF HAWAII GONE. THE HAWAII THAT DANCED TO THE DRUMMING OF BROWN-SKINNED HANDS, DANCED TO THE DRUMMING OF SHINING WAVES.
BUSINESSMEN AND MISSIONARIES HAVE DROWNED OUT THAT DRUMMING WITH THE DRONE OF *WORDS*. PROMISES. PRICES. PRAYERS.
HULA WAS ALL I HAD OF THE WORLD BEFORE WORDS. UNTIL *HE* CAME. OUT OF THE SILVER LIGHT. AND HE WATCHED ME *DANCE*. AND UNDERSTOOD.

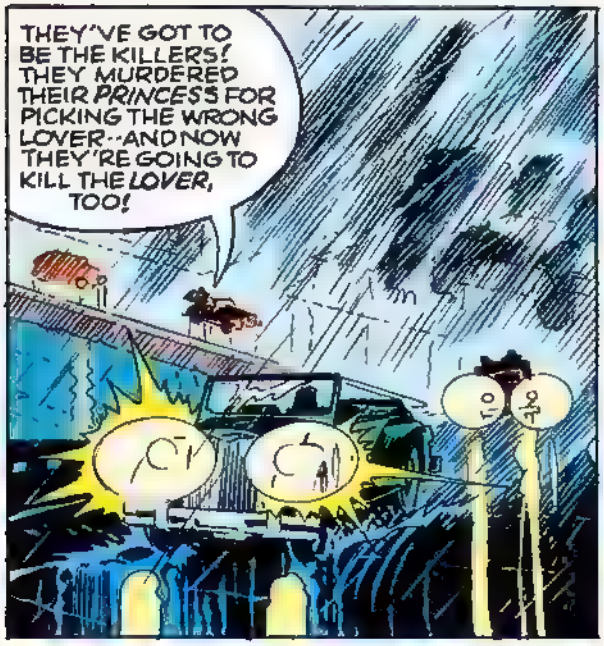
AND NOW...
NOW I'M AFRAID I FEEL A STORM COMING ON. YOU WILL EXCUSE ME?
Oh. YEAH. I'LL EXCUSE YOU
FOR ANYTHING. ANYTIME.
NOW DRY OFF YOUR SHOULDER AND GET INSIDE, LI'L GIRL. OL' JOHN DOESN'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THOSE CLOUDS. SEE YOU ABOUT?
I'M SURE YOU WILL.
I HOPE YOU WILL.
A STORM? Oh, YES.
A GREAT STORM IS COMING.
NO!
NOT THE DUKE KAHANAMOKU! THE OLYMPIC SWIMMER? THE SURFER?
AND THE SHERIFF OF HONOLULU, I SHOULD ADD.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SURFING, MISS LANE, I'D BE HAPPY TO TEACH YOU A BIT ABOUT OUR LOCAL SPORT.
THANK YOU. AND PERHAPS I CAN THINK OF A SPORT OR TWO TO TEACH YOU ABOUT.

FUNNY. I'D HAVE THOUGHT Mr. ROLAND WOULD BE HERE... WITH HIS BELOVED PRINCESS ABOUT TO DANCE.
WELL, PERHAPS A TAP ON HIS DOOR WOULDN'T BE COMPLETELY OUT OF--
Oh, LORD! HARRY! THAT SHIRT! THIS IS A BALLROOM!
Ah, BUT IT'S A HAWAIIAN BALLROOM! AND IF IT'S HAWAIIAN, HARRY VINCENT LOVES IT!
MINE EYES HAVE BEEN OPENED, KEED!
Mm. WIDE OPEN FOR PRINCESS LILIHA, I NOTICED.
"I IMAGINE YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE...EDIFICATION OF HER HULA PERFORMANCE."
NOW, NOW. SHE'S A LADY, YOU KNOW. A REAL LADY.
AS OPPOSED TO A FAKE, YOU MEAN?! WELL, AT LEAST SHE'S LOVED BY A MAN WHO WOULDN'T CARE IF SHE'S "REAL" OR NOT!
A MAN WHO UNDERSTANDS PAIN-- AND PRETENDING--AND WOULDN'T JUDGE SOMEONE BY HER PAST!
MARGO--?
WAIT! I--

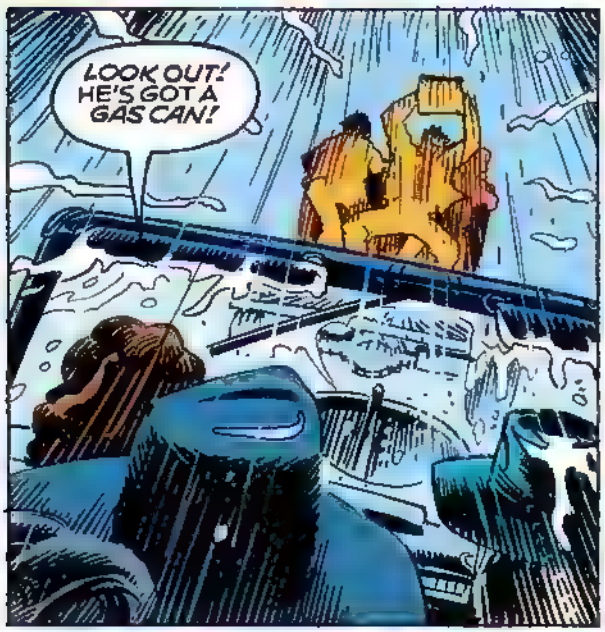
tudda-budda-
DOOM
THIS IS A HULA FROM WAIMEA, A LOVE STORY OF PELE AND A MORTAL MAN. A SAD STORY, I'M AFRAID.
tum tum tum-ta-tum
A STORY OF DOOMED LOVE, AND...
tum ta-tum
WHAT?
tum tum tum
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
tum ta-tum tum
PRINCESS!!

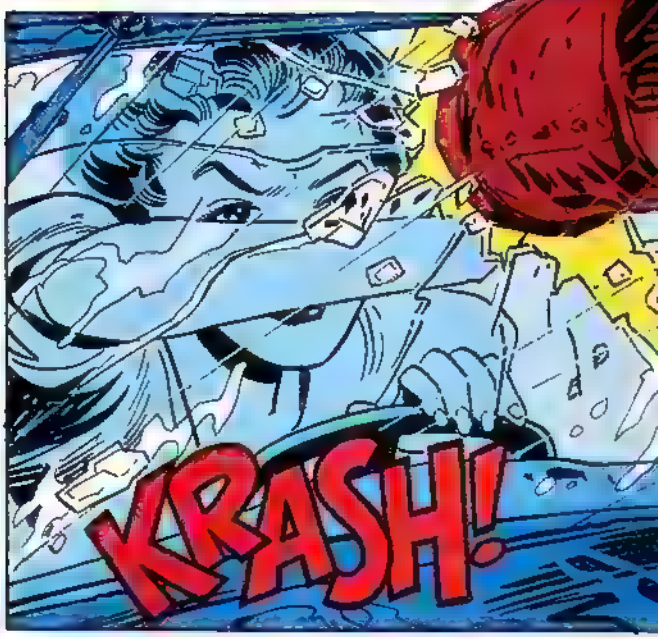
Oh DEAR GOD!
IS SHE--? IS SHE--?
WHO WOULD DO THIS?
COME ON! THE HAOLE!
LILIHA.
LILIHA.
STOP THOSE DRUMMERS! THEY'RE KILLERS!
STOP THOSE--
SKRSEEEEEEEEE

STOP THAT TRUCK! STOP THOSE--
BROOOM
CRIPES.
SHREEEE
SAVE YOUR BREATH, HARRY VINCENT.
fump!
YOU MAY NEED IT.
THAT'S ROLAND'S CAR IN FRONT. THE HAWAIIAN DRUMMERS ARE IN THAT TRUCK AFTER IT.


THEY'VE GOT TO BE THE KILLERS! THEY MURDERED THEIR *PRINCESS* FOR PICKING THE WRONG LOVER--AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO KILL THE *LOVER*, TOO!

AS THEY LEFT THE PARKING LOT I HEARD ONE--


LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GAS CAN!


KRASH!

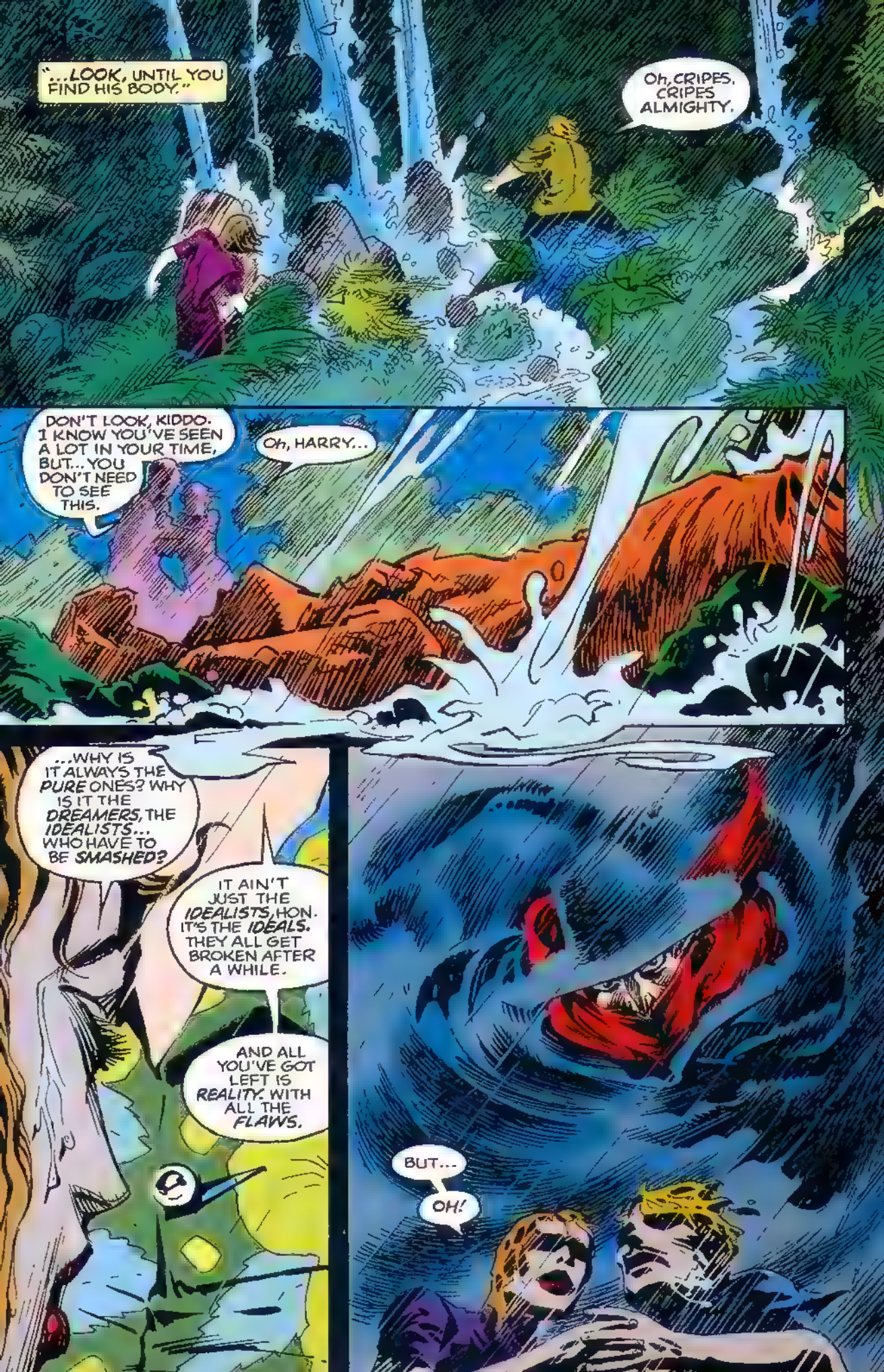
MARGO-- KEEP HOLD OF THE *WHEEL!* KEEP--

--nyukh
NOW, HAOLE. YOU PULL TO DA *SIDE*, YEAH!

WHOK
DRIVE ON, MARGO. NOW, HARRY. WHAT DID YOU HEAR?
GONNA KILL YOU AN' DA KINE!
BUT... BUT BOSS...
...WE'VE LOST THEM!
WHAT DID YOU HEAR, AGENT VINCENT?
I...I HEARD ONE SAY HE KNEW WHERE ROLAND WAS GOING.
HE WAS GOING TO SEE SOMEBODY NAMED POLLY. BUT HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO--
NOT POLLY, AGENT VINCENT. PALI. THE HAWAIIAN WORD FOR "CLIFF."
"MOST LIKELY THE NUUANU PALI, THE GAP IN THE GREAT SPINAL RANGE OF OAHU."

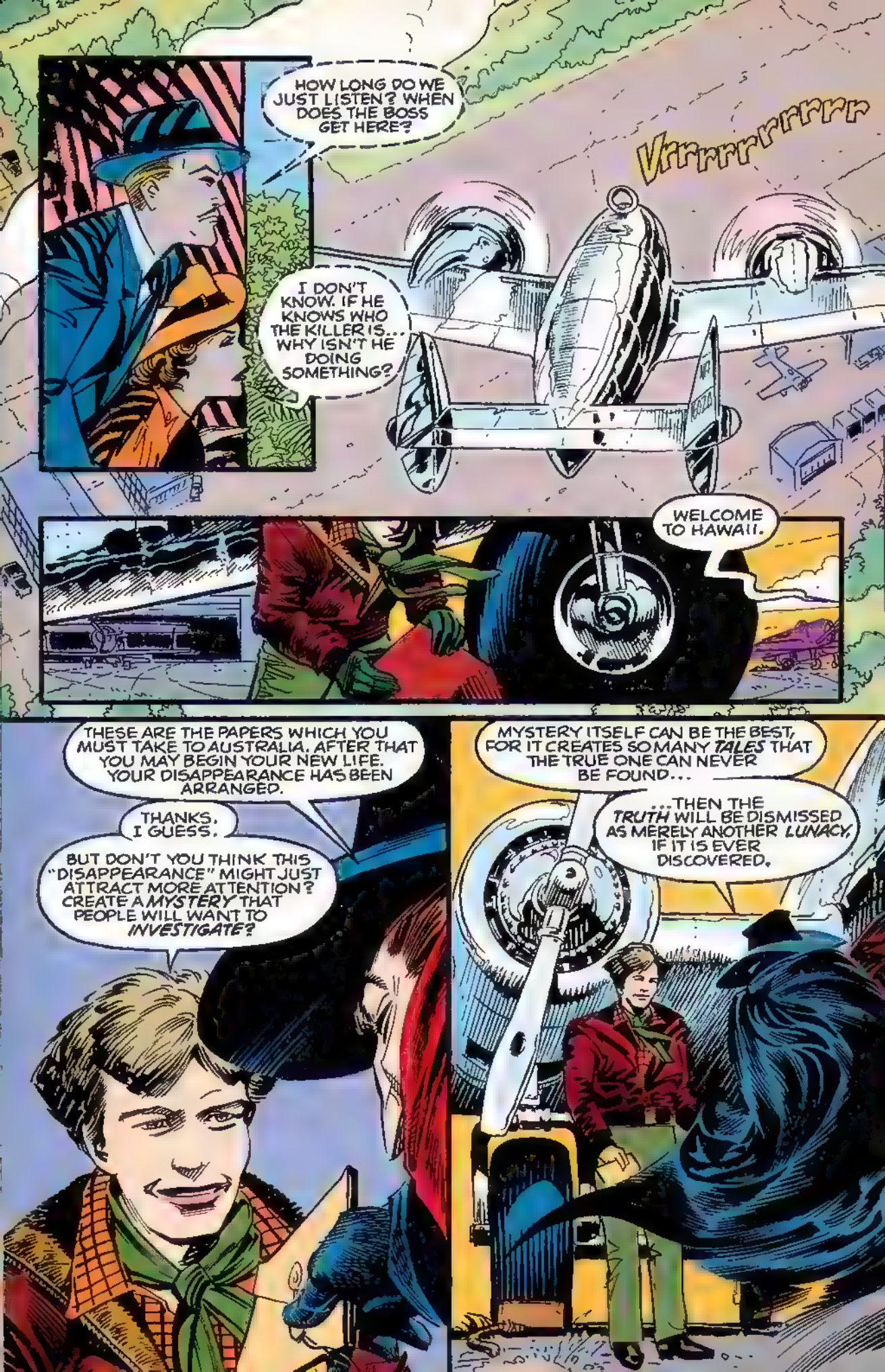
THERE! YOU WERE RIGHT, BOSS!
THE SHADOW IS...
"...ALWAYS RIGHT."
OH, NO! THEY'RE GONE! WHERE--?
TO THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
QUICKLY, NOW.

JOHN! HANG ON! WE'RE COMING!
NnpH
LOOK OUT! HIS FRIENDS--
SHMAK!
KLOK
Whach
YOU...CAN'T...
POK
AAAAAAAAA
Urgh!
...BEAT US...
Oh...JOHN...
TO THE BOTTOM, MY AGENTS...


"...LOOK, UNTIL YOU FIND HIS BODY."
OH, CRIPES. CRIPES ALMIGHTY.
DON'T LOOK, KIDDO. I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN A LOT IN YOUR TIME, BUT... YOU DON'T NEED TO SEE THIS.
OH, HARRY...
...WHY IS IT ALWAYS THE *PURE* ONES? WHY IS IT THE *DREAMERS*, THE *IDEALISTS*... WHO HAVE TO BE *SMASHED*?
IT AIN'T JUST THE *IDEALISTS*, HON. IT'S THE *IDEALS*. THEY ALL GET BROKEN AFTER A WHILE.
AND ALL YOU'VE GOT LEFT IS *REALITY*. WITH ALL THE *FLAWS*.
BUT...
OH!

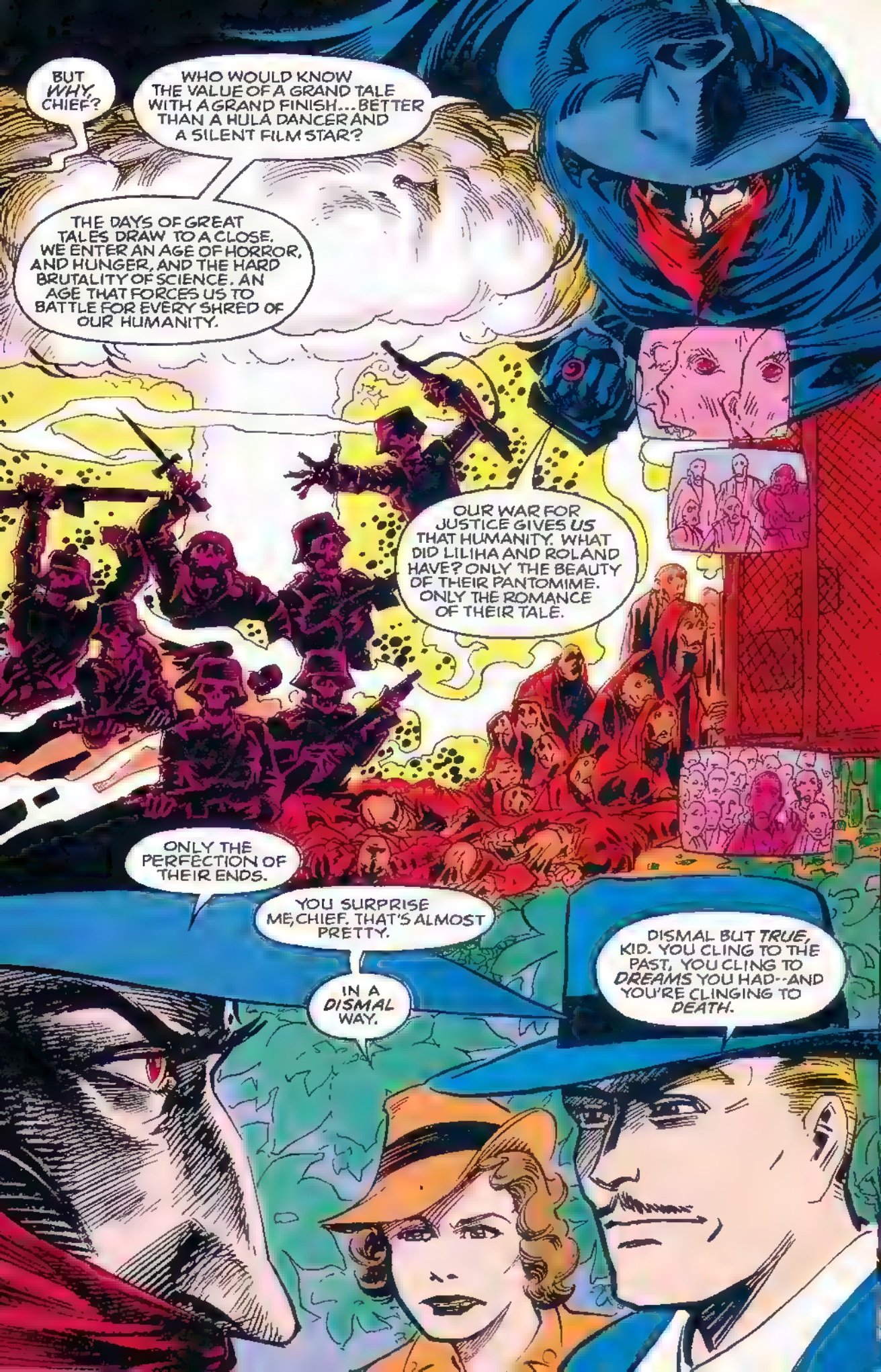
BOSS! HOW IN THE... WHY IN THE...
I THREW MYSELF OFF THE PALI.
KNOWING THAT IN THIS STORM, THE LEGENDARY WINDS WOULD LOWER ME SAFELY.
THEN WHY DID ROLAND GET SO SMASHED UP WHEN THEY THREW HIM OFF?
THEY DID NOT THROW HIM, NOR DID THEY KILL THE PRINCESS.
THOUGH I HAVE AN IDEA WHO DID.
HAWAIIANS UPSET BY THE DEATH OF THE PRINCESS... POLICE ON ALERT... BUT NO VIOLENCE EXPECTED...

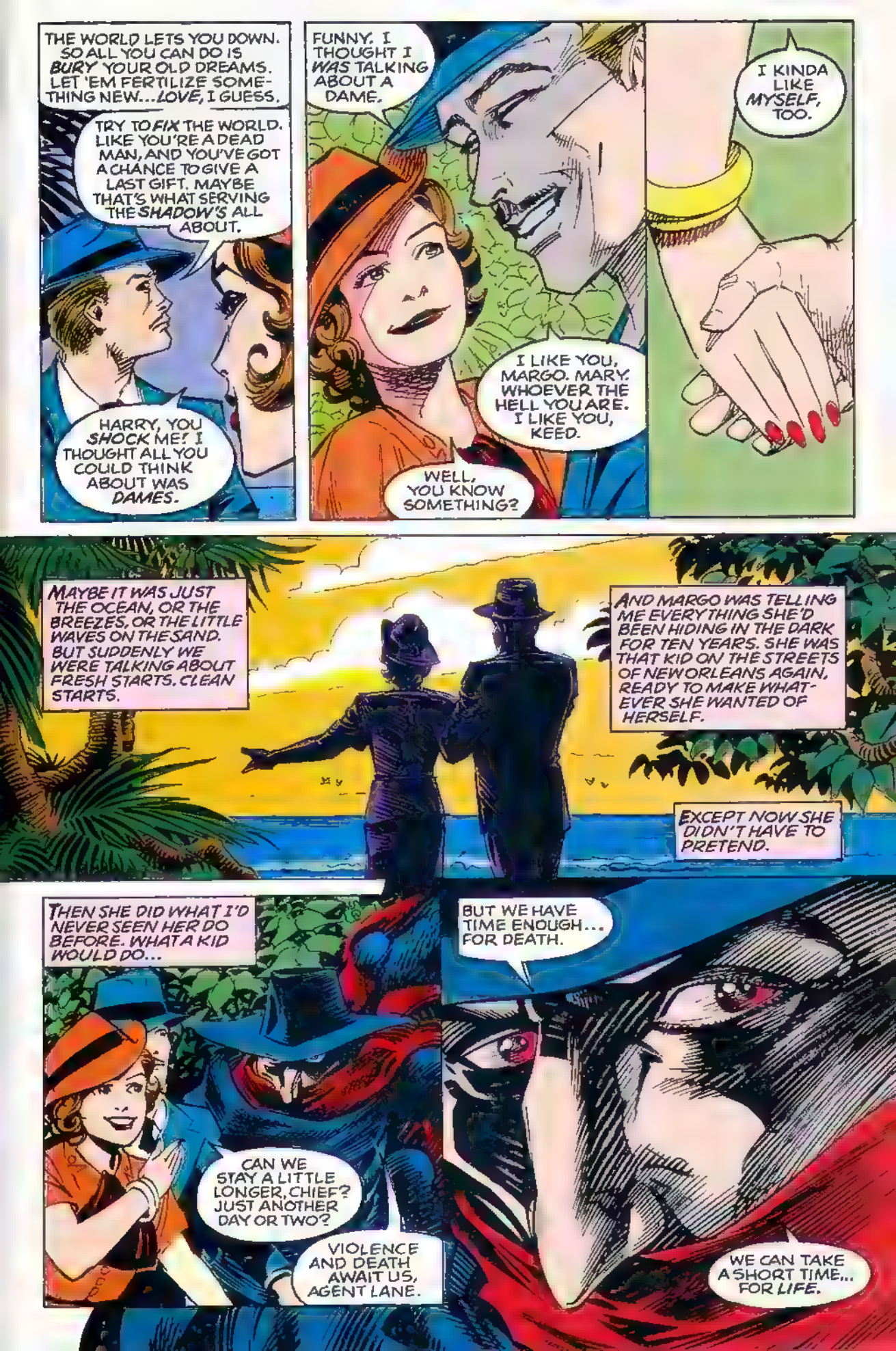
YOU! SO SOON?
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, PREWITT. YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT.
OF COURSE I KNOW. AND I'VE GOT IT... RIGHT...
...HERE!
EVERYTHING WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN ON THE REMNANTS OF SHIWAN KHAN'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. YOU'LL FIND IT A LONG LIST... MASTER.
EXCELLENT, AGENT PREWITT. MY SPECIAL MESSENGER ARRIVES SOON, AND I WISH HER TO WASTE NO TIME.
ANY IDEA WHO MURDERED PRINCESS LILIHA, MASTER?
PERHAPS.
IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING SO, I THINK IT'S--
OH.
YOU HEARD THEM SAY "AGREEMENT"? DIDN'T YOU KNOW? DIDN'T YOU THINK?

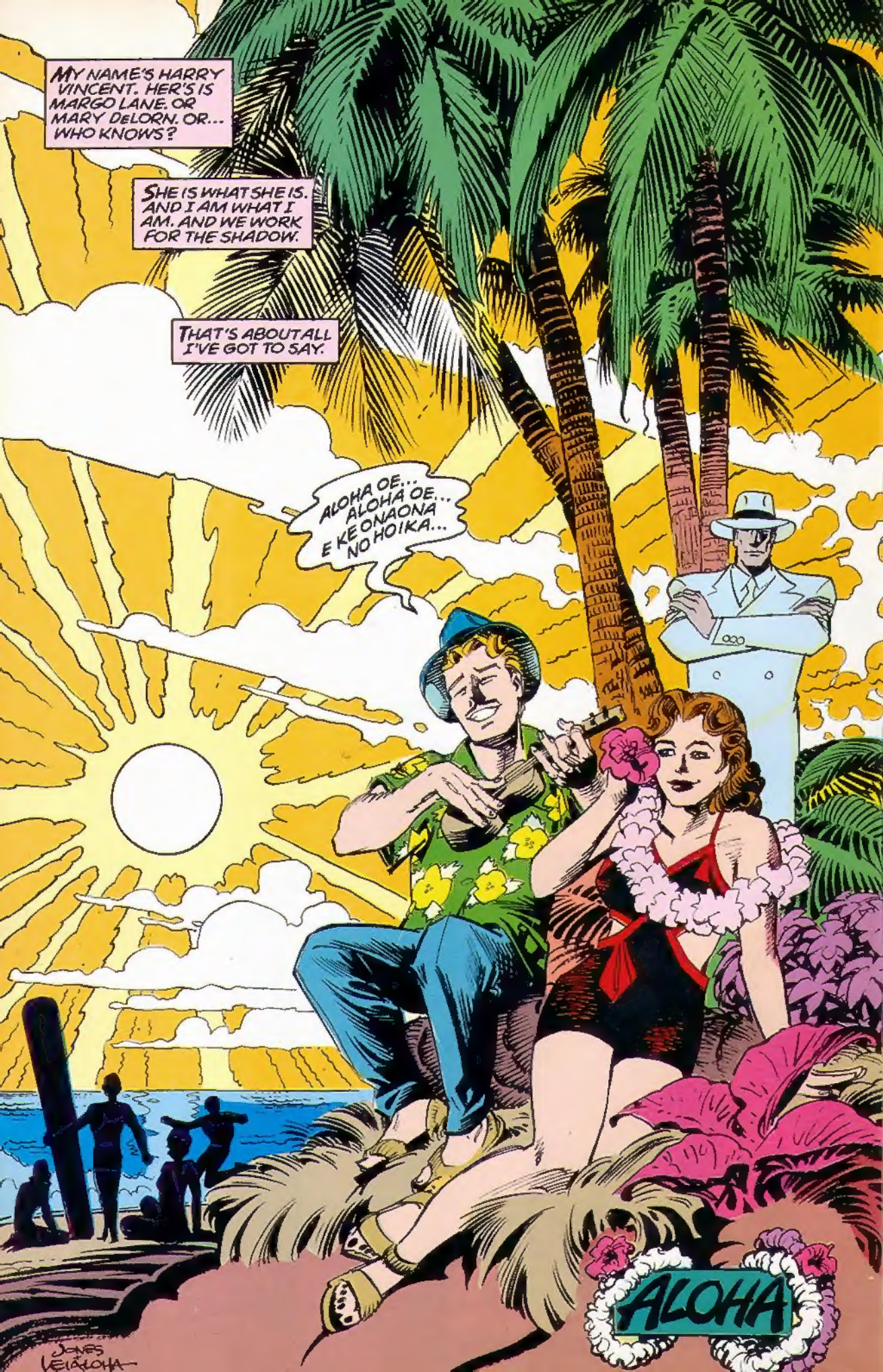

HOW LONG DO WE JUST LISTEN? WHEN DOES THE BOSS GET HERE?
I DON'T KNOW. IF HE KNOWS WHO THE KILLER IS... WHY ISN'T HE DOING SOMETHING?
Vrrrrrrrrrrr
WELCOME TO HAWAII.
THESE ARE THE PAPERS WHICH YOU MUST TAKE TO AUSTRALIA. AFTER THAT YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR NEW LIFE. YOUR DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN ARRANGED.
THANKS, I GUESS.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THIS "DISAPPEARANCE" MIGHT JUST ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION? CREATE A *MYSTERY* THAT PEOPLE WILL WANT TO *INVESTIGATE*?
MYSTERY ITSELF CAN BE THE BEST, FOR IT CREATES SO MANY *TALES* THAT THE TRUE ONE CAN NEVER BE FOUND...
...THEN THE *TRUTH* WILL BE DISMISSED AS MERELY ANOTHER *LUNACY*, IF IT IS EVER DISCOVERED.

I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW BEST.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY TWO CREWMEN. BOYS, THIS IS THE GENTLEMAN WHO...
...WHO VANISHES.
Ah, WELL, WHAT DID I EXPECT-- WITH THE PRESS BOYS COMING?
MISS EARHART! MISS EARHART! A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT!
LILIHA... POOR LILIHA...
CAREFUL, YEAH?
THEY'RE LEAVING--WITH HER BODY! IF THEY'RE NOT THE KILLERS, WHY DID THE BOSS SEND US TO SPY ON THEM?
BUT IF THEY ARE-- WHY ISN'T HE HERE?
THAT DOES IT! I'VE ASKED ENOUGH QUESTIONS! I'M CHASING THOSE BIG BOYS MY--

--SEEEEEEYOW!
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED, HARRY VINCENT?
FROM *THEM*? NOT MUCH. THEY ARGUED. THEY CIRCLED. THEN THE *PRINCE* TOLD THEM TO LOAD UP THE BODY.
KEPT YELLING THAT LILIHA AND ROLAND WERE TALKING ABOUT SOME *AGREEMENT*--
THEN I AM CORRECT. LET US RETURN TO OUR ROOMS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE *KILLER*?
THE KILLER... DIED AT THE BASE OF THE NUUANU PALI.
THE "AGREEMENT"... WAS A *SUICIDE PACT*. ROLAND KILLED LILIHA AS SHE WISHED HIM TO, IN THE MOMENT OF HER GREATEST JOY AND BEAUTY.
I KNEW THAT IT MUST BE SUICIDE--FOR TO DIE IN THE PALI WINDS REQUIRED ROLAND TO RESIST THE INSTINCT TO FLATTEN HIS BODY AND FLAIL.
IT REQUIRED HIM TO *DIVE*.
HE PLANNED TO KILL HIMSELF. BUT THE DRUMMERS, GUESSING HIS INTENT AND FEARING A GREATER SCANDAL, ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT HIM. THEY FAILED.


BUT WHY, CHIEF?
WHO WOULD KNOW THE VALUE OF A GRAND TALE WITH A GRAND FINISH... BETTER THAN A HULA DANCER AND A SILENT FILM STAR?
THE DAYS OF GREAT TALES DRAW TO A CLOSE. WE ENTER AN AGE OF HORROR, AND HUNGER, AND THE HARD BRUTALITY OF SCIENCE. AN AGE THAT FORCES US TO BATTLE FOR EVERY SHRED OF OUR HUMANITY.
OUR WAR FOR JUSTICE GIVES *US* THAT HUMANITY. WHAT DID LILIHA AND ROLAND HAVE? ONLY THE BEAUTY OF THEIR PANTOMIME. ONLY THE ROMANCE OF THEIR TALE.
ONLY THE PERFECTION OF THEIR ENDS.
YOU SURPRISE ME, CHIEF. THAT'S ALMOST PRETTY.
IN A *DISMAL* WAY.
DISMAL BUT *TRUE*, KID. YOU CLING TO THE PAST, YOU CLING TO *DREAMS* YOU HAD--AND YOU'RE CLINGING TO *DEATH*.


THE WORLD LETS YOU DOWN. SO ALL YOU CAN DO IS BURY YOUR OLD DREAMS. LET 'EM FERTILIZE SOMETHING NEW... LOVE, I GUESS.
TRY TO FIX THE WORLD. LIKE YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, AND YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO GIVE A LAST GIFT. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SERVING THE SHADOW'S ALL ABOUT.
HARRY, YOU SHOCK ME! I THOUGHT ALL YOU COULD THINK ABOUT WAS DAMES.
FUNNY. I THOUGHT I WAS TALKING ABOUT A DAME.
I KINDA LIKE MYSELF, TOO.
I LIKE YOU, MARGO. MARY. WHOEVER THE HELL YOU ARE. I LIKE YOU, KEED.
WELL, YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE OCEAN, OR THE BREEZES, OR THE LITTLE WAVES ON THE SAND. BUT SUDDENLY WE WERE TALKING ABOUT FRESH STARTS. CLEAN STARTS.
AND MARGO WAS TELLING ME EVERYTHING SHE'D BEEN HIDING IN THE DARK FOR TEN YEARS. SHE WAS THAT KID ON THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS AGAIN, READY TO MAKE WHATEVER SHE WANTED OF HERSELF.
EXCEPT NOW SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO PRETEND.
THEN SHE DID WHAT I'D NEVER SEEN HER DO BEFORE. WHAT A KID WOULD DO...
CAN WE STAY A LITTLE LONGER, CHIEF? JUST ANOTHER DAY OR TWO?
VIOLENCE AND DEATH AWAIT US, AGENT LANE.
BUT WE HAVE TIME ENOUGH... FOR DEATH.
WE CAN TAKE A SHORT TIME... FOR LIFE.


MY NAME'S HARRY VINCENT. HER'S IS MARGO LANE. OR MARY DeLORN. OR... WHO KNOWS?
SHE IS WHAT SHE IS. AND I AM WHAT I AM. AND WE WORK FOR THE SHADOW.
THAT'S ABOUT ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY.
ALOHA OE... ALOHA OE... E KE ONAONA NO HOIKA...
ALOHA
JAMES VEILALOHA

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Dear Bob,

I was surprised by how extensively "Margo's Story" was told. Now that Harry Vincent has learned the ladyhood of Margo, we'll soon learn how much of a gentleman Mr. Vincent really is.

Of course, since the Shadow was behind the learning of Margo's story, this could all have been a story, nothing more.

Melissa Page
Clarksville, TN

I sense we have a cynic in Tennessee. Well, Melissa, only time will tell whether we have all been taken in by the guy with the big ring.

* * * * *

Dear Mssrs. Jones, Whigham, et al.:

I have been a reader of comics (entirely DC, by the way) on and off for the past 25 years. In all that time I have never been so knocked over by the sheer quality of a comics series to write a fan letter.

But the work you have done with THE SHADOW STRIKES! changed that. I think it is quite simply the best that DC has to offer, in terms of character treatment and conceptualization and in its literate, engaging style—not to mention the evocative artwork.

I have been a fan of the Shadow for as long as I have been a comics fan, and I commend you for having remained faithful to the classic conception of the character in producing a series that can be enjoyed both by pulp and radio fans of the character, and comics readers generally.

I have particularly enjoyed the current Shiwan Khan story, which is as good as any that Mr. Gibson produced, and is without parallel in this series for pacing and suspense, and overall quality.

THE SHADOW STRIKES! is one reason that I started to read and collect comics again after a decade-long hiatus, and such was my pleasure at discovering the great job that you had done that, while I now read several comics, yours is the only one that I absolutely can't miss.

Keep up the good work! You've made this comics fan come back to DC!

David Cote
Nashua, NH

* * * * *

Dear Shadow Staff,

I have recently read issue #24, and let me say how thrilled I am with the current storyline. Shiwan Khan has always been one of my favorite villains. I also like getting a look into the Shadow's network of agents. The story of Margo's past was intriguing and helped create even more mystique around the Shadow than before. Also the revelation of Lamont Cranston's incident in Istanbul in 1929. Was this where the Shadow replaced Cranston's identity? Probably so, the way you guys have laid it out. I would love for this meeting to be a story, but not too soon. After all, we don't want to find out too much about the Shadow! The unknown is what makes him what he is.

I am glad to see this story for another reason: It is a multi-part story with good depth. Now, I realize that there have been two-parters in the past, but I think the Shadow naturally lends himself to longer stories. Lastly, I don't understand the people who don't like Rod Whigham's work. Granted, Eduardo does excellent work, but so does Rod. Fans should be happy for their book to have two fine artists. Many of them don't have *one*. Hope this helps the letter page out. May it be worthy to share the Shadow's comic (okay, a little melodramatic).

Sincerely,
Rob LaMorgese
4885 Lakewood Drive
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

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Dear Guys:

The pro-union story in THE SHADOW STRIKES! #18-19 was great. Mark Badger's artwork was beautifully stylish. He really knows how to emphasize the emotional content of a comics page. In the past I've felt his quirky, angular art distracted me from the story, but in these two issues I thought his storytelling was excellent. The first two pages of issue #18 have great layouts—very complicated and modern (compared to a six-panel grid). But it carries the story well, and doesn't distract the reader. The fragmentation of time and images and the heavy use of black areas spotlight and heighten the emotion. That was a great *in medias res* beginning. It really drew me into the story. I enjoy all the issues of THE SHADOW STRIKES!, but those two stood out. It was excellent work.

I expect Gerard Jones will not be able to add much to the Shadow's character, due to licensing restrictions, but these days an audience expects more depth of characterization than I think the old pulps gave. So I thought it was very clever of Jones to start fleshing out the characters of the Shadow's agents. In the union-related story, he used Shrevvy to explore a story that the Shadow was hardly involved in, and he also explored Shrevvy's character in more detail. The way he used the minor character there, and the way the Shadow was barely involved in the story, reminded me of the way Will Eisner told stories that only peripherally involved the Spirit. Very good.

Since the issue's set in Chicago, I could tell that Jones was adding to the character of Margo. And he's set hints here and there about her past and her many skills: her acting ability in the story about Einstein, her fighting in the Shiwan Khan stories. After issue #23, I expected the story to follow her to China with Shiwan Khan to develop Margo's character. I enjoyed the clever twist he used in issue #24 by making Harry Vincent the one who dredges up Margo's past. Jones killed two birds with one stone, adding depth to the characterizations of both Margo and Harry. It was clever, and it worked well.

Sincerely,
Perry Whittle
P.O. Box 170267
San Francisco, CA 94117

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Well, the Shadow, Margo and Harry hardly have time to get the sand out of their shoes before they are back at work in New York City. Guest artist Dan Spiegle does the honors in THE SHADOW STRIKES! #29.

And, Messrs. Jones and Whigham present in issues #30 and #31 a little story we like to call THE SHADOW: YEAR ONE.

Come back for the ride.

—Bob Kahan
Just hangin' out on the beach a bit longer

What's New in '92 Part I

Inside DC, as I've mentioned before, was created to give our readers a personalized glimpse behind the scenes at comics' oldest publisher. While this forum was never intended to be a hype column, a number of readers have written to ask for information on upcoming new series, so this week and next we'll take a gander at a handful of new titles you'll be seeing within the next few months.

There's lots in store for Green Lantern fans in '92, starting with GREEN LANTERN: MOSAIC, a monthly starring GL John Stewart, in March. This space-spanning book is written by Gerard Jones, pencilled by newcomer Cully Hamner, and inked by Dan Panosian. In April there's the debut of GREEN LANTERN CORPS QUARTERLY, an anthology title in the vein of JUSTICE LEAGUE QUARTERLY that features stories about the numerous GLs in the DC Universe (and since every dog has his day, expect to see more of G'nort there). And that's not all... GUY GARDNER, Guy Gardner's favorite Green Lantern, stars in a three-issue Prestige Format miniseries starting in May, written by the Guardians of the Universe's favorite son Gerard Jones, and pencilled by Joe Staton. Rumor has it that the latter series may be followed by an all-new GUY GARDNER *monthly*, or at least that's what Guy was saying just the other day around Justice League HQ. The editorial ringkeeper of the House of Oa is Kevin Dooley, who can recite Green Lantern's oath in seven different languages, including Brooklynese!!

Geo-Force, Katana, Looker, and Halo are returning to action—along with several new partners—in an all-new monthly OUTSIDERS series, published in DC's New Format, and courtesy of series creator (and writer) Mike W. Barr, penciller Brian Hitch (the artist of last year's beautiful ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL), and editor Mike Carlin. This time around, the tone of THE OUTSIDERS is different from the earlier incarnation: it's darker and spookier, as the Outsiders are branded as criminal outlaws and must truly live up to their name by working *outside* the law. OUTSIDERS has yet to be scheduled, but it'll be worth the wait!

HAMMERLOCKE is a nine-issue New Format limited series whose milieu is outside of the DC Universe. Archer Locke was the chief engineer behind the greatest technological achievement of the 21st century: the Olympus Starbridge, a literal elevator to Earth orbit that will allow humanity to reach the stars. But when an accident crippled him, he disappeared for seven years... until now, when a new threat to the Starbridge forces him out of retirement as the cyborg Hammerlocke. This epic is written by series co-creator Tom Joyner (the writer of several SECRET ORIGINS stories), and inked by co-creator K.S. Wilson (whose work has also appeared in POWER OF THE ATOM and ANGEL AND THE APE), pencilled by Chris Sprouse (one of DC's hottest new talents, best known for his JUSTICE LEAGUE, BATMAN ANNUAL, and LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT work), and edited by Stuart Moore and Karen Berger.

You asked for it... you wrote letters, you begged, you pleaded—but we're bringing him back anyway. AMBUSH BUG is returning to poke fun at DC, the comics industry, the world, and anything else he wants. The Bug and his lunacy will appear this spring in a one-shot special by the Bug's father, Keith Giffen (no one will take credit for being the Bug's mom), who plots and pencils this madness, writer Robert Loren ("Don't Call *Me* the Momma!") Fleming, inker Al Gordon, and guest guru and advisor Julius Schwartz, with edits by yours truly. AMBUSH BUG has the Legion of Super-Heroes and Sandman's sis Death picked as his first targets, but I'm sure he won't stop there—he might even come after *you*...

World War II is over, the atomic age has dawned, and Justice Society members Green Lantern, Hawkman, Liberty Belle, Johnny Quick, and others have hung up their masks in THE GOLDEN AGE, a four-issue Prestige Format miniseries written by James Robinson (a British author best known for his work on *A-1* and *Crisis* in the U.K. and on Dark Horse's *Terminator*), illustrated by Paul Smith (who needs no introduction to fans of Marvel's *X-Men*), and edited by Archie Goodwin. Into THE GOLDEN AGE's world of McCarthyism and a changing United States walks Mr. America, who creates rifts among masked mystery men, active and retired, when he enlists a number of super-heroes in a mission to forge the "first super-hero of the Atomic Age." THE GOLDEN AGE is a different look at a different era, a contemporary look at the world and the heroes of DC's yesteryear, perfect for fans of modern *and* classic super-heroes.

THE GOLDEN AGE

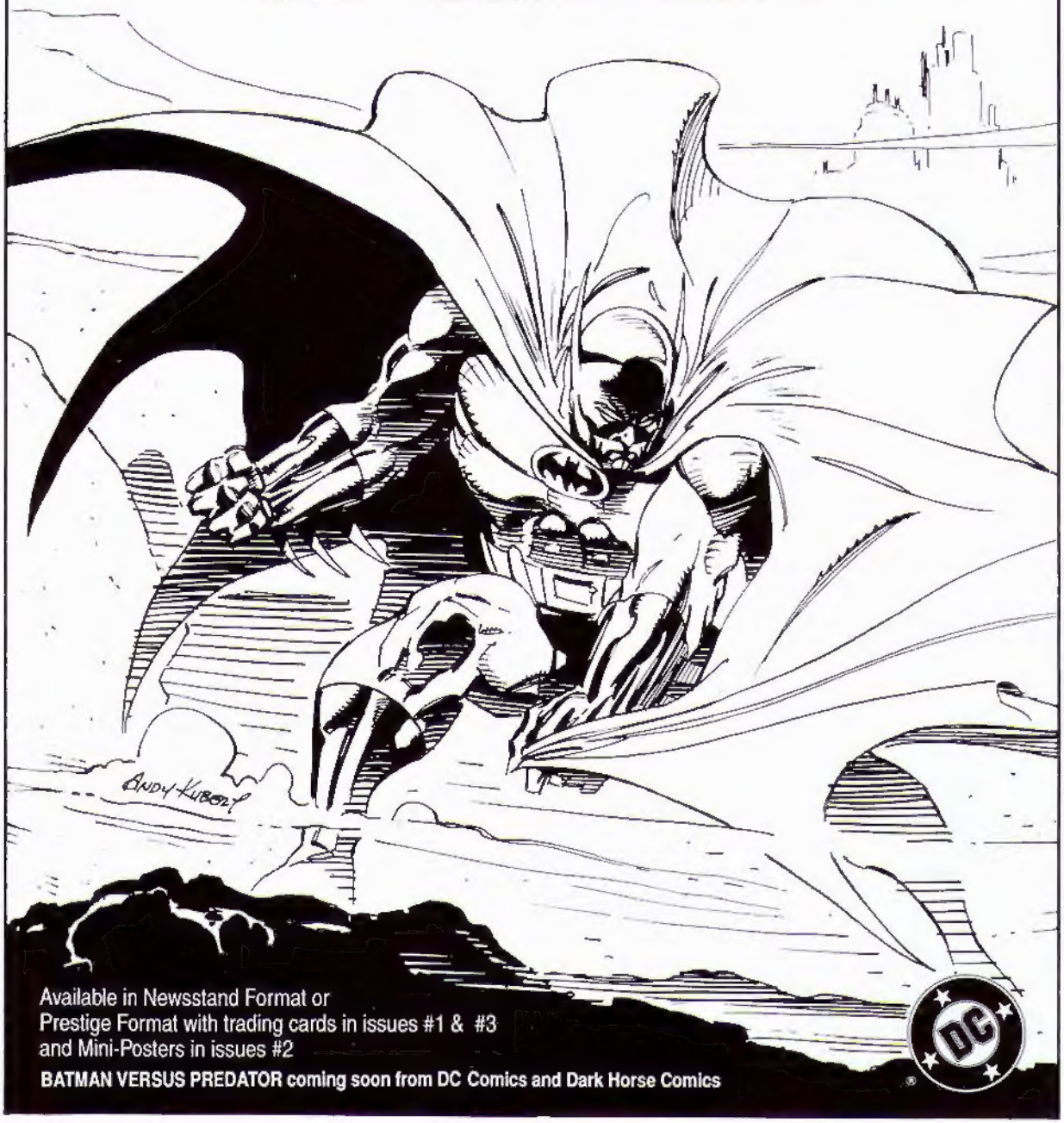
Doc Magnus's heroic robots, THE METAL MEN, will appear later this year in a much-anticipated four-issue miniseries written by Mike Carlin, pencilled by Dan Jurgens, inked by Brett Breeding, and edited by Kevin Dooley. This series will reveal the reasons that the Metal Men have always acted the way they do (and you thought it was because of faulty responsometers... guess again!).

So there's your first peek at some of the exciting new titles DC has planned for you in '92. Next time, we'll continue with previews of a few other new series. Shall I open up this column to this topic again in the future? Or what else would you like to read about here? Your demand is my command, so write me at ***Inside DC*, c/o DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019**, and let me know what's on your mind.

See you next week.

—Michael Eury

HUNTER
OR HUNTED?



Available in Newsstand Format or
Prestige Format with trading cards in issues #1 & #3
and Mini-Posters in issues #2

BATMAN VERSUS PREDATOR coming soon from DC Comics and Dark Horse Comics

DC

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BATMAN